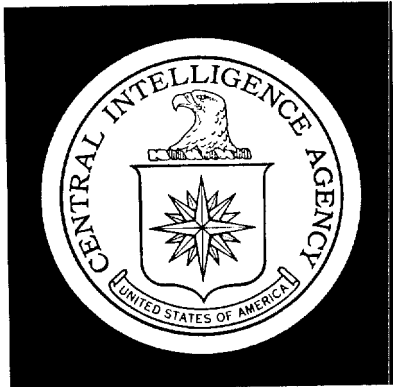


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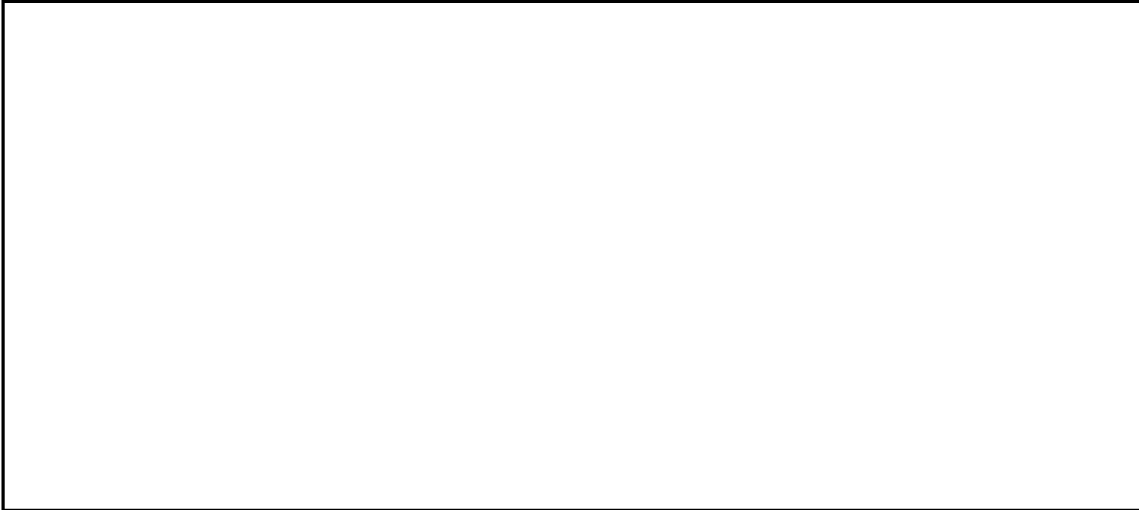
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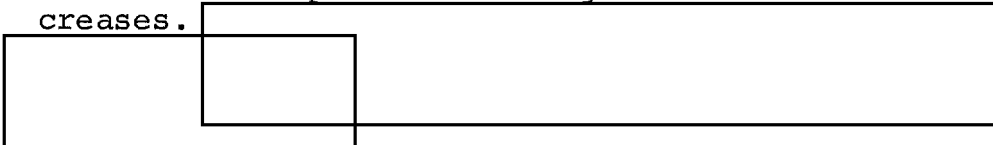
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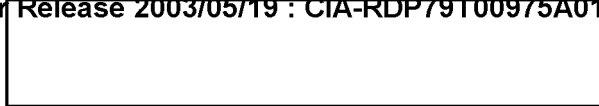


LIBYA: The government has made several new demands on Western oil companies that include a five-percent tax increase, mandatory reinvestment of a share of oil company revenues, and payment of a "Suez allowance." Details of the latter are not known, but the Libyan deputy prime minister has indicated its purpose is to make the oil companies "suffer" sufficiently to exert pressure on the US to bring about a change in its Middle East policy. The demands place Libya one step ahead of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), which is to meet soon with major international oil companies to renegotiate such tax increases.



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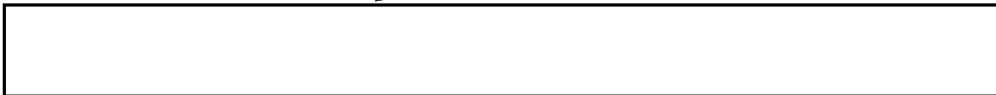
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PANAMA: Members of the extremist Movement of National Liberation (MLN) are planning to kidnap a USIS official

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The MLN has been nearly decimated by a government crackdown in recent months, and many members of the group have fled the country. A few of the remaining hard-core militants, however, apparently want to attempt a retaliatory act--and to force the release of Panamanian political prisoners--before being forced into exile themselves.



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